

Message Text

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51

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 OMB-01 OPR-02 SY-10

PPT-02 SCA-01 PC-15 NIC-01 EUR-25 DRC-01 /209 W

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P 150012Z NOV 73 ZFG

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5547

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 4048

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CS

SUBJECT: GOCR USES FORCE IN SQUATTERS PROBLEM

1. GOCR HAS TAKEN DECISION TO FORCIBLY
DISLODGE A GROUP OF SQUATTERS OCCUPYING PRIVATE
FINCAS NEAR PANAMANIAN BORDER. THE COSTA RICAN
COLONIZATION INSTITUTE (ITCO) ASKED THE EXECUTIVE
POWER TO TAKE OVER THE PROBLEM SINCE ITS EFFORTS
TO RESETTLE THE SQUATTERS AND RESOLVE THE PROBLEM
HAD FAILED. THE SQUATTERS, WHO HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED
AND APPARENTLY DIRECTED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY,
HAVE REFUSED TO ABIDE BY LEGAL PRESCRIPTIONS TO
WITHDRAW PENDING RESETTLEMENT ELSEWHERE.

2. THE GOCR DECISION TO FORCIBLY
DISLODGE THE SQUATTERS WAS TAKEN IN A FULL
CABINET MEETING. THE DECISION APPARTNTLY
RESTED ON THE GOCR BELIEF THAT A) THE
COMMUNIST PARTY WAS SEEKING TO--AND WOULD--
BENEFIT ELECTORALLY BY MAKING THIS ISSUE A
CAUSE CELEBRE; B) IF ALLOWED TO PROCEED,
THE PARTY WOULD STIR UP SIMILAR TROUBLE
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ELSEWHERE; AND C) THE PRINCIPLE OF INVIOABILITY

OF PRIVATE PROPERTY HAD TO BE UPHELD. IN EFFECT, THE GOCR SEEMS TO BE DECIDED THAT IT HAS MORE TO GAIN POLITICALLY THAN IT HAS TO LOSE. HOWEVER, SOME VIOLENCE IS EXPECTED, AND SINCE THIS MAY BECOME A HOT PROBLEM PRESIDENT FIGUERES IS SCHEDULED TO TO ON NATION-WIDE TELEVISION THURSDAY EVENING TO EXPLAIN THE ACTION.

3. ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, THE MJRN OPERATION WILL TAKE PLACE TOMORROW, NOVEMBER 15, BUT MAY HAVE ALREADY BEGUN. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THE PANAMANIAN BORDER MAY BE CLOSED TEMPORARILY WHILE THE CLEARING OPERATION IS IN PROGRESS.

4. THE PRIVATE PROPERTY IN QUESTION IS A LARGE TRACT PURCHASED FROM UNITED FRUIT BY A CUBAN, CERVILIO ORIHUELA REGALADO, WHO IS A NATURALIZED AMERICAN. THE LAND IS HELD IN THE NAME OF FEDERAL BEEF LIMITED, A COSTA RICAN INCORPORATED FIRM.
VAKY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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